



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

18 VAC 110-20 – Regulations Governing the Practice of Pharmacy Department of Health Professions November 7, 2005

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 21 (02). Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

Summary of the Proposed Regulation

The Board of Pharmacy (board) proposes to allow graduates of foreign schools of pharmacy to take an internet-based examination called TOEFL iBT in lieu of the Test of English as a Foreign Language and Test of Spoken English examinations.

Estimated Economic Impact

The current regulations require that applicants for licensure who were trained in foreign schools of pharmacy complete and receive scores acceptable to the board on the Educational Testing Service's (ETS) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Test of Spoken English (TSE). In cooperation with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), ETS has revised and combined TOEFL and TSE into a four-part internet-based examination, called TOEFL iBT. While ETS will continue to offer TOEFL and TSE upon request until June of 2006, on and after September 24, 2005, the TOEFL iBT is the examination that will routinely be given to graduates of foreign schools of pharmacy. To pass the TOEFL iBT, a graduate will need

to achieve a passing score on each of the four parts that test - writing, speaking, listening and reading. A failure on one part will necessitate retaking that part, but not the entire examination.

In the future, the board will continue to receive applications from persons who have been practicing in some states who previously passed the TOEFL and TSE examinations, so it must retain those examinations in regulation. However, the board proposes to add acceptable scores on the TOEFL iBT as an alternative to acceptable scores on the TOEFL and TSE examinations for licensure applicants who are graduates of foreign schools of pharmacy. Since the TOEFL and TSE exams will no longer be available after June 2006, the proposed amendment is very beneficial for the Commonwealth. Without the amendments, graduates of foreign schools of pharmacy would not be able to satisfy the listed requirements for licensure.

Further, if a graduate of a foreign school of pharmacy takes the TOEFL iBT instead of TOEFL and TSE, she will save \$125. According to the Department of Health Professions (department), the fees for TOEFL iBT, TOEFL and TSE, are \$140, \$140 and \$125, respectively. Thus, the proposed amendment will enable graduates of foreign schools of pharmacy to save \$125 in examination fees.

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed amendments affect graduates of foreign schools of pharmacy who apply for licensure in Virginia.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed regulations affect localities throughout the Commonwealth.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed amendments will not likely significantly affect employment levels.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed amendments will save affected individuals \$125. Their net worth will increase commensurately.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

The proposed amendments do not add to costs for small businesses.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

The proposed amendments do not add to costs for small businesses.